



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE  
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

February 18, 2020

Re: Klamath Falls, OR Targeted Airshed Grant Application

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the South Central Oregon Regional Solutions Team to offer our full support for the *Targeted Airshed Grant* being submitted by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Regional Solutions is Oregon Governor Kate Brown's approach to community and economic development, established by Executive Order and enacted by the Oregon legislature. Regional Solutions recognizes the unique needs of each Oregon region, and the importance of working locally to identify priorities, solve problems, and seize opportunities to get projects done. The South Central Region Regional Solutions Team includes improving air quality and reducing barriers to economic development as an economic development priority for South Central Oregon.

The community of Klamath Falls has faced significant challenges meeting federal air quality standards for small particulate, with Klamath Falls first designated as non-attainment for PM10 in 1987. Those challenges continue to this day with PM2.5.

Fortunately, the region has been successful recently in improving air quality in the Klamath Airshed through a variety of educational outreach and woodstove smoke reduction programs, largely relying on local and state funding. Local and state partners have many years of experience in addressing this problem, one which has public health and economic development impacts. The region has an increased risk of health problems, including asthma, emphysema, bronchitis as well as an increased death rate due to respiratory disease.

While use of woodstoves as a primary heat source has been the norm historically, recent efforts have resulted in nearly 500 woodstove changeouts and reduction of more than five tons of particulate matter. Despite recent improvements, work remains to further reduce particulate matter emissions from wood stoves, prescribed burning, agricultural burning and other sources. Funding in this grant would further educational programs in schools, fund woodstove changeouts to non-wood heating and provide weatherization for residential housing. It would also

fund a clean and dry firewood program and a feasibility study aimed at decreasing emissions from public transportation.

While DEQ is the primary applicant for this grant, funding would go through Klamath County Public Health for implementation, an agency that has been working collaboratively on local air quality since the 1980s. Funding through the Targeted Airshed Grant Program is critical to helping Klamath Falls improve air quality and permanently reduce small particulate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (541) 610-7215.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Liebe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annette" being more prominent than the last name "Liebe".

Annette Liebe  
Regional Solutions Coordinator  
Office of Governor Kate Brown  
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